THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) The outstanding dues payable by Ministry of Rural Development to the Food Corporation of India (FCI) for food grains supplied for its welfare schemes as on 30.11.2005 were Rs. 23,524 crores.

(b) No, Sir. 8.15% per annum interest, compounded monthly, is charged by the SBI led consortium from the FCI.

(c) The total cash credit utilisation as on 28.11.2005 is Rs. 28,094 crore.

(d) Does not arise.

Wheat rotting in FCI godowns in Punjab

1853. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons that a large quantity of wheat is rotting every year in the godowns of Food Corporation of India in Punjab;

(b) the details in this regard during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) the manner in which the rotten wheat is disposed off; and

(d) the remedial measures taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) The following stocks of wheat held by the FCI in its godowns at Punjab had become damaged i.e. unfit for human consumption, during the last three year:-

Year	Quantity (Lakh MT)
2002-03	0.08
2003-04	0.12
2004-05	0.06

The above stocks had become damaged during storage in open complexes due to exposure to the vagaries of weather. The extent of

damage to wheat stocks when compared with total procurement of wheat in the respective years is around 0.18%, 0.34% and 0.18% respectively and thus negligible taking into account the volume of operations.

(c) Damaged wheat is disposed off for non-edible purposes like cattle/ poultry feed, industrial use, manure etc. These stocks are offered to those State Government Departments/Organisations which are bonafide users under Rate Running Contract in the first instance. The balance stocks are sold through open tenders to the parties registered with the FCI.

(d) Covered storage space has been increased by the FCI by hiring about 20 lakh MT capacity godowns in Punjab during the last 3 years. This has considerably decreased the storage of wheat in open complexes and minimised damages on this account. Besides the FCI is storing foodgrains scientifically and taking due care of prophylactic and curative treatments and pest control measures to save the foodgrains stock from deterioration.

Streamlining FCI

1854. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a declining role for the Food Corporation of India in view of the vast capacity of private godowns' space hired;

(b) to what extent private operators can store, release and buy grains without the need of the FCI;

(c) whether Government propose to reduce the visibility and role of the FCI in the near future;

(d) the steps proposed to streamline the FCI and also reduce its rental charges for private godowns;

(e) whether any outside management agency has studied the FCI; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Food Corporation of India (FCI) hires private godowns capacity under compelling circumstances where